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# Most Say U.S. Should 'Not Get Too Involved' in Ukraine Situation

*Reluctance Crosses Party Lines*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
ON THIS REPORT:**

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# Most Say U.S. Should ‘Not Get Too Involved’ in Ukraine Situation

## *Reluctance Crosses Party Lines*

As Russian troops remain in Ukraine’s Crimea region and Crimea’s Parliament has set up a secession vote, Americans prefer the U.S. to not get too involved in the situation.

By a roughly two-to-one margin (56% vs. 29%), the public says it is more important for the U.S. to not get involved in the situation with Russia and Ukraine than to take a firm stand against Russian actions.

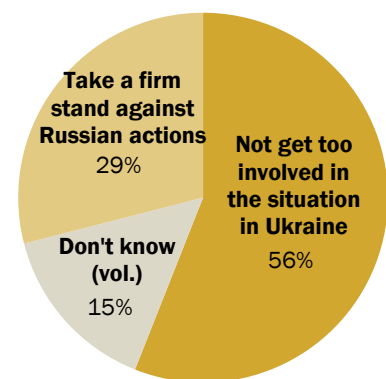
The new national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted March 6-9, 2014 among 1,003 adults, find more disapprove (44%) than approve (30%) of the way the Obama administration is handling the situation involving Russia and Ukraine, while roughly a quarter (26%) offer no opinion.

Opinions about the administration’s handling of the situation are divided along partisan lines. A majority of Republicans (67%) disapprove of its handling of the situation, while most Democrats (56%) approve. Independents by roughly two-to-one (52% to 24%) disapprove of how the administration has handled the situation involving Russia and Ukraine.

But partisans generally agree that the U.S. shouldn’t get too involved in the situation. Half of Republicans (50%) say it is more important for the United States not to get too involved; just 37% think the U.S. should take a firm stand against Russian actions. Among Democrats, 55% prefer not getting too

### 29% Want ‘Firm Stand’ by U.S. Against Russia

% saying it is more important for the U.S. to ...

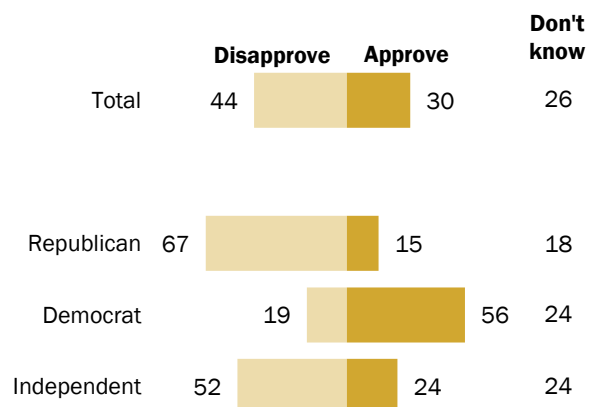


Survey conducted Mar. 6-9, 2014.

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### Independents Disapprove of Obama Administration’s Handling of Ukraine

Obama administration’s handling of situation involving Russia and Ukraine



Survey conducted Mar. 6-9, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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involved and three-in-ten (30%) say the U.S. should take a firm stand.

Those who say it is more important for the U.S. taking a firm stand against Russian actions in Ukraine were asked if the U.S. should consider military options or only political and economic options. Most of this group – 19% of the public overall – said the U.S. should consider only political and economic options in addressing the situation, while just 8% of the public think that military options should be considered.

Just 16% of Republicans and smaller shares of Democrats and independents (5% each) say that military options should be considered.

There is broad agreement that Russia was not justified in sending troops into Ukraine.

Overall, 68% say Russia was not justified in sending troops into Ukraine while just 10% say it was justified; 22% express no opinion. There are no significant partisan differences in these opinions.

Among the public, 28% say they are very closely following news about Russia sending troops to Crimea in response to a new Ukrainian government, while 31% say they are following news about Russia and Ukraine fairly closely; 40% of the public is following this story not too closely or not at all closely.

By comparison, the early stage of the conflict between Russian and Georgian forces in August 2008 drew lower interest; [shortly after the conflict began](#), 17% tracked news about the situation very closely. Interest rose the following week (to 35% following very closely) and then declined. By the end of August 2008, as news coverage of the situation decreased, 22% said they were paying very close attention to the Russia-Georgia conflict.

## Modest Partisan Differences in Views of U.S. Actions in Ukraine

*Do you think it is more important for the U.S. to ...*

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Take a firm stand against Russia actions	29	37	30	25
<i>In addressing the situation should the U.S. ...</i>				
Consider military options	8	16	5	5
Only consider economic/political options	19	19	24	18
Don't know	2	1	1	3
Not get too involved in the situation	56	50	55	62
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100

Survey conducted Mar. 6-9, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Those who are following the news very closely are more inclined than others to advocate for the U.S. to take a firm stand against Russia. Among those closely following the news, roughly as many say the U.S. should take a firm stand (47%) as prefer not getting too involved (43%).

But among those paying less attention, a much greater share say it is more important not to get too involved (61%) than to take a firm stand (22%). Among both groups, however, wide majorities say Russia was not justified in sending troops and more disapprove than approve of how Obama has handled the situation. There are no significant differences in the shares of Republicans, Democrats and independents following this story very closely.

## The Week's News

Overall, about as many followed news about the nation's economy as the situation in Ukraine very closely (28% Ukraine, 27% economy). Nearly as many closely tracked news about the rollout of the 2010 health care law (23%). By comparison, 19% very closely followed news a week earlier (Feb. 27-Mar. 2) about violence in Ukraine and the new government there.

News interest last week about Russian troops in Crimea was highest among those with higher education levels. Roughly four-in-ten (38%) college graduates very closely followed the story, compared with about three-in-ten people (29%) with some college education and two-in-ten (20%) with a high school degree or less.

## Those Focused on Ukraine News More Supportive of U.S. Taking 'Firm Stand'

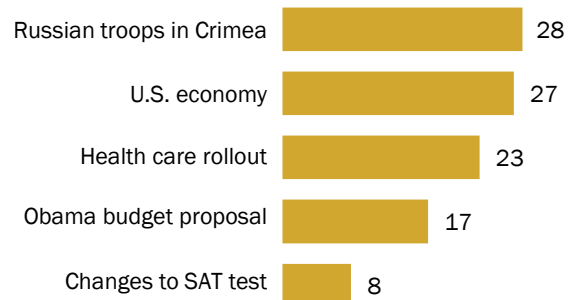
	Following news very closely %	Following news less closely %	Diff
<i>Do you think it is more important for the U.S. to ...</i>			
Take a firm stand against Russia actions	47	22	+25
Should consider military options	15	5	+10
Should only consider economic/political options	30	15	+15
Don't know	2	2	0
Not get too involved in the situation	43	61	-18
Don't know	10	17	-7
N	320	673	

Survey conducted Mar. 6-9, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Interest in The Week's News

% following news very closely



Survey conducted Mar. 6-9, 2014.

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## About the Surveys

### March 6-9, 2014 Survey

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 6-9, 2014 among a national sample of 1,003 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (501 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 502 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 280 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,003	3.6 percentage points
Republican	257	7.2 percentage points
Democrat	304	6.6 percentage points
Independent	350	6.2 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## February 27-March 2, 2014 Survey

Some news interest analysis in the report is based on telephone interviews conducted February 27-March 2, 2014 among a national sample of 1,002 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (500 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 502 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 272 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,002	3.6 percentage points
Republican	246	7.3 percentage points
Democrat	331	6.3 percentage points
Independent	372	6.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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**March 6-9, 2014 OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,003**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
March 6-9, 2014	27	31	19	22	1
February 27-March 2, 2014	27	32	16	24	1
February 6-9, 2014	28	29	20	22	1
January 30-February 2, 2014	29	31	17	23	*
January 9-12, 2014	28	29	19	23	1
January 2-5, 2014	29	31	17	22	1
December 12-15, 2013	26	27	21	24	1
November 14-17, 2013	32	32	17	19	*
October 31-November 3, 2013	31	37	16	15	*
October 17-20, 2013	41	31	16	12	*
October 3-6, 2013	34	30	19	16	1
September 25-29, 2013	35	30	16	18	*
September 19-22, 2013	28	33	20	19	1
September 12-15, 2013	28	34	17	20	*
August 1-4, 2013	28	35	19	17	1
July 18-21, 2013	28	29	20	23	1
June 20-23, 2013	28	30	19	22	1
June 13-16, 2013	30	32	15	22	*
June 6-9, 2013	33	31	15	21	*
May 16-19, 2013	30	31	20	19	*
May 9-12, 2013	28	30	21	20	1
March 28-31, 2013	30	30	17	22	1
March 7-10, 2013	35	30	16	19	*
January 31-February 3, 2013	33	33	16	16	1
January 17-20, 2013	36	32	15	16	*
January 3-6, 2013	34	32	18	16	1

SEE TREND FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: <http://www.people-press.org/files/2014/01/NII-Economy-trend.pdf>

b. Russia sending troops into Ukraine's Crimea region in response to a new Ukrainian government

March 6-9, 2014	28	31	17	23	1
February 27-March 2, 2014: <i>Political violence and a new government in Ukraine</i>	19	28	21	31	1

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

August 29-31, 2008: <i>The ongoing hostilities between Russia and the Republic of Georgia</i>	22	31	26	20	1
August 22-25, 2008	27	39	22	12	*
August 15-18, 2008	35	35	15	15	*
August 8-11, 2008: <i>Russia sending troops into the Republic of Georgia</i>	17	22	23	37	1



## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
c. Barack Obama's budget proposal for next year					
March 6-9, 2014	17	23	22	37	2
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
December 12-15, 2013: Congress negotiating a new budget agreement	17	26	23	33	1
October 17-20, 2013: Congress reaching an agreement to end the government shutdown and raise the debt limit	49	30	12	9	*
October 3-6, 2013: The shutdown of the federal government	43	30	15	11	*
September 25-29, 2013: Congress working on a budget agreement to avoid a government shutdown at the end of September	36	25	16	23	*
September 19-22, 2013	25	24	21	30	1
March 28-31, 2013: Automatic government spending cuts that began on March 1st	24	24	19	32	1
March 14-17, 2013: Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt	24	26	20	29	1
March 7-10, 2013: Automatic government spending cuts that began on March 1st	31	26	18	25	1
February 21-24, 2013: News about automatic cuts to federal spending that will take effect next week, unless the president and Congress act	25	26	19	29	1
January 24-27, 2013: Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt	23	28	19	29	1
January 3-6, 2013: Congress and the president passing legislation to avoid the Fiscal Cliff	38	26	16	21	1
December 13-16, 2012: The debate in Washington over automatic spending cuts and tax increases that would take effect in January unless the President and Congress act	37	28	16	18	1
December 6-9, 2012	37	26	17	20	1
November 29-December 2, 2012	40	26	14	20	1
November 15-18, 2012	33	24	16	25	1
November 8-11, 2012	38	20	20	20	*
July 19-22, 2012	23	21	22	33	1
November 3-6, 2011: Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt	24	31	21	24	1
October 27-30, 2011	25	28	21	25	1
October 13-16, 2011: The debate in Washington over jobs and the deficit	29	32	15	24	1
September 29-October 2, 2011: Congress working on a budget extension to avoid a government shutdown	31	26	20	22	*
September 22-25, 2011: The debate in Washington over jobs and the deficit	35	26	19	19	1
September 15-18, 2011: The debate in Washington over President Obama's jobs legislation	31	28	19	21	2

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
September 8-11, 2011: <i>Barack Obama's speech about jobs to a joint session of Congress</i>	28	18	17	36	1
July 28-31, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	41	27	15	17	*
July 21-24, 2011	38	28	17	17	*
July 14-17, 2011	34	29	18	19	*
June 16-19, 2011: <i>Debate in Washington over whether to raise the federal debt limit</i>	24	26	22	28	*
June 2-5, 2011	23	24	22	31	*
May 26-29, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	25	26	20	29	*
May 12-15, 2011	21	26	24	28	1
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	29	28	22	20	1
April 21-25, 2011	30	31	18	21	*
April 14-17, 2011	36	27	18	19	1
April 7-10, 2011: <i>The threat of a government shutdown because of budget disagreements in Washington</i>	47	26	15	12	*
March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	30	27	21	22	*
March 17-20, 2011	24	25	24	26	1
March 3-6, 2011	26	29	19	26	1
February 17-20, 2011	27	30	17	25	1
December 2-5, 2010	35	25	21	17	2
December 2-5, 2010: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal income tax cuts passed when George W. Bush was president</i>	39	26	17	17	1
November 11-14, 2010: <i>Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission</i>	15	21	21	41	1
September 16-19, 2010: <i>The debate in Washington over competing Democratic and Republican tax plans</i>	21	24	21	34	*
September 9-12, 2010	16	19	22	42	1
May 8-11, 2009: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal budget</i>	22	28	19	31	*
March 27-30, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's budget proposal</i>	28	34	18	19	1
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i>	41	32	13	14	*
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>Barack Obama's budget proposal for next year that raises taxes on wealthy Americans and increases spending on health care, education and other programs</i>	47	34	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's plan to help homeowners facing foreclosure which could cost as much as \$275 billion</i>	31	36	19	13	1

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
February 20-23, 2009: <i>The \$780 billion economic stimulus legislation approved by Congress and signed into law by President Obama</i>	41	37	14	8	*
February 13-16, 2009: <i>Congress passing Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan</i>	50	32	13	5	*
February 6-9, 2009: <i>The debate in Congress over Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan</i>	41	33	15	11	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	36	29	22	13	*
January 16-19, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over what the government should do about the nation's economic problems</i>	35	33	17	15	*
January 9-12, 2009: <i>Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year</i>	35	30	19	16	*
December 19-22, 2008: <i>The Bush administration's plan to provide billions in emergency loans to U.S. automakers</i>	37	33	16	13	1
December 12-15, 2008: <i>The debate over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry</i>	40	33	18	9	*
December 5-8, 2008: <i>The debate in Congress over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry</i>	34	38	17	11	*
November 21-24, 2008	41	26	17	15	1
October 3-6, 2008: <i>The debate in Washington over a plan to use government funds to stabilize financial markets</i>	62	26	7	5	*
September 26-29, 2008	60	22	10	8	*
September 12-15, 2008: <i>The federal government taking control of the mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac</i>	28	35	19	17	1
March 20-24, 2008: <i>The buyout of Wall Street investment bank Bear Stearns</i>	21	26	21	32	*
February 8-11, 2008: <i>President Bush and Congress agreeing on an economic Stimulus plan</i>	22	33	23	21	1
January 25-28, 2008	24	36	19	21	*
February, 2003: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut and economic stimulus plan</i>	26	33	23	16	2
February, 2003	26	33	23	16	2
January, 2003	28	34	21	15	2
February, 2002: <i>The debate in Congress over George W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan</i>	17	31	28	23	1
April, 2001	24	38	20	18	*
February, 2001: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut plan</i>	31	35	19	14	1
August, 1997: <i>The debate in Washington about the federal budget</i>	14	34	25	26	1
May, 1997	16	38	23	22	1
February, 1997	19	28	22	29	2
March, 1996	24	35	23	18	*
January, 1996	32	42	17	9	*
September, 1995	20	35	27	18	*
August, 1995: <i>The debate in Congress over the federal budget</i>	18	34	27	20	1

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
February, 1995: <i>The debate in Congress over the Balanced Budget Amendment</i>	12	31	28	28	1
August, 1993: <i>The debate in Congress over Bill Clinton's budget bill</i>	30	36	21	13	*
June, 1993	12	38	31	18	1
February, 1993: <i>Bill Clinton's economic plan</i>	49	36	10	5	*
September, 1992 (RV): <i>George Bush's plan to improve the economy by cutting government spending and cutting taxes</i>	28	44	18	9	1
November, 1990: <i>Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement</i>	34	33	20	11	2
October, 1990: <i>Attempts by Congress and the administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit</i>	34	37	17	12	*
August, 1989: <i>Passage of a bill to bailout ailing savings and loan institutions</i>	26	30	20	23	1
d. Changes to the SAT college admissions test March 6-9, 2014	8	15	22	53	1
e. News about how the rollout of the 2010 health care law is going					
March 6-9, 2014	23	27	18	31	2
February 6-9, 2014	23	24	23	30	1
January 2-5, 2014	30	24	18	27	2
December 12-15, 2013	26	26	22	25	1
November 14-17, 2013	37	28	16	19	*
October 31-November 3, 2013: <i>News about health insurance exchanges opening around the country as part of the 2010 health care law</i>	32	32	19	17	*
October 17-20, 2013	33	28	22	17	*
October 3-6, 2013	33	24	22	20	1
August 29-September 1, 2013: <i>News about parts of the health care law that are about to take effect</i>	23	25	21	30	*
July 18-21, 2013	25	25	19	30	*
June 28-July 1, 2012: <i>The Supreme Court decision on the 2010 health care law</i>	45	21	14	19	*
March 29-April 1, 2012: <i>Supreme Court hearings about the 2010 health care reform law</i>	29	27	17	27	*
November 17-20, 2011: <i>The U.S. Supreme Court agreeing to hear legal challenges to last year's health care reform law</i>	18	24	24	33	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>A federal judge ruling that part of the new health care law is unconstitutional</i>	25	28	19	28	1
January 20-23, 2011: <i>News about Republican efforts to repeal last year's health care law</i>	29	29	20	21	1
December 16-19, 2010: <i>A federal judge ruling that parts of the new health care law are unconstitutional</i>	28	24	17	30	1

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
September 23-26, 2010: <i>News about portions of this year's health care reform law beginning to take effect</i>	37	31	17	14	1
April 16-19, 2010: <i>News about the new health care reform law</i>	40	30	16	14	*
April 9-12, 2010	46	27	15	12	*
April 1-5, 2010	42	27	14	16	*
March 26-29, 2010: <i>Debate over health care reform</i>	49	29	12	10	*
March 19-22, 2010	51	24	11	14	*
March 12-15, 2010	40	31	16	13	*
March 5-8, 2010	42	27	17	15	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	29	29	19	22	*
February 19-22, 2010	33	28	19	19	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	39	27	16	17	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	32	15	11	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	27	19	18	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	26	20	15	*
December 18-21, 2009	42	27	16	14	*
December 11-14, 2009	42	30	15	14	*
December 4-7, 2009	42	28	15	14	1
November 20-23, 2009	42	29	14	15	*
November 13-16, 2009	38	26	17	17	1
November 6-9, 2009	35	28	15	22	1
October 30-November 2, 2009	32	26	19	23	*
October 23-26, 2009	40	27	16	17	1
October 16-19, 2009	36	28	15	21	*
October 9-12, 2009	37	29	14	19	1
October 2-5, 2009	39	29	16	16	*
September 25-28, 2009	45	31	12	12	0
September 18-21, 2009	44	26	19	11	*
September 11-14, 2009	44	27	14	15	*
September 3-6, 2009	40	26	16	17	0
August 28-31, 2009	40	28	17	14	1
August 21-24, 2009	49	24	12	15	1
August 14-17, 2009	39	31	15	15	1
August 7-10, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over health care reform</i>	40	27	17	15	1
July 31-August 3, 2009	47	26	14	13	1
July 24-27, 2009	44	28	15	13	*
July 17-20, 2009	33	31	13	21	2
July 10-13, 2009	24	29	20	27	*
June 26-29, 2009	29	26	20	25	1
June 19-22, 2009	28	28	20	23	*
June 12-15, 2009	29	26	18	26	*
May 15-18, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's health care plans</i>	25	30	20	24	*
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i>	41	32	13	14	*
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
October, 1994: <i>The debate in Congress about health care reform</i>	32	37	18	12	1
September, 1994: <i>The Clinton administration's health care reform proposals</i>	32	41	18	9	*
June, 1994	34	40	19	7	*
May, 1994	37	37	16	9	1
January, 1994	38	38	15	9	*

**PEW.1 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...**

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early January, 1994	40	40	14	6	*
December, 1993	45	35	12	7	1
October, 1993	44	32	17	6	1
September, 1993	49	34	11	6	*
August, 1993: <i>Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton</i>	27	32	25	15	1
June, 1993	28	38	19	15	*
May, 1993	30	30	25	14	1

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Obama administration is handling the situation involving Russia and Ukraine?

Mar 6-9

2014

30 Approve  
44 Disapprove  
26 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**NO QUESTIONS PEW.3-PEW.4****ASK ALL:**

PEW.5 Do you think Russia was justified or not justified in sending troops into Ukraine?

Mar 6-9

2014

10 Justified  
68 Not justified  
22 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**NO QUESTIONS PEW.6-PEW.7****ASK ALL:**

PEW.8 Thinking about the situation in Ukraine, do you think it is more important for the U.S. to **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

**ASK IF FIRM STAND (PEW.8=1):**

PEW.9 And do you think the U.S. should consider military options to address the situation involving Russia and Ukraine, or should it only consider economic and political options?

Mar 6-9

2014

29 Take a firm stand against Russian actions  
8 Consider military options  
19 Only consider economic and political options  
2 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**  
56 Not get too involved in the situation  
15 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**February 27-March 2, 2014 OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,002**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
February 27-March 2, 2014	27	32	16	24	1
February 6-9, 2014	28	29	20	22	1
January 30-February 2, 2014	29	31	17	23	*
January 9-12, 2014	28	29	19	23	1
January 2-5, 2014	29	31	17	22	1
December 12-15, 2013	26	27	21	24	1
November 14-17, 2013	32	32	17	19	*
October 31-November 3, 2013	31	37	16	15	*
October 17-20, 2013	41	31	16	12	*
October 3-6, 2013	34	30	19	16	1
September 25-29, 2013	35	30	16	18	*
September 19-22, 2013	28	33	20	19	1
September 12-15, 2013	28	34	17	20	*
August 1-4, 2013	28	35	19	17	1
July 18-21, 2013	28	29	20	23	1
June 20-23, 2013	28	30	19	22	1
June 13-16, 2013	30	32	15	22	*
June 6-9, 2013	33	31	15	21	*
May 16-19, 2013	30	31	20	19	*
May 9-12, 2013	28	30	21	20	1
March 28-31, 2013	30	30	17	22	1
March 7-10, 2013	35	30	16	19	*
January 31-February 3, 2013	33	33	16	16	1
January 17-20, 2013	36	32	15	16	*
January 3-6, 2013	34	32	18	16	1
<a href="http://www.people-press.org/files/2014/01/NII-Economy-trend.pdf">SEE TREND FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: http://www.people-press.org/files/2014/01/NII-Economy-trend.pdf</a>					
b. The Defense Department proposing a new budget that cuts the size of the Army					
February 27-March 2, 2014	24	23	19	33	1
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
January 5-8, 2012: <i>The Obama administration's plans to change military strategy and reduce military spending</i>	26	28	22	24	*
September, 2001: <i>Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's overall review of the U.S. Department of Defense and the military</i>	7	18	26	47	2
c. The veto by Arizona's governor of a bill that would have allowed businesses to refuse service to gays and lesbians for religious reasons					
February 27-March 2, 2014	25	24	20	31	1

**PEW.1 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
June 27-30, 2013: <i>The Supreme Court decisions on same-sex marriage</i>	30	31	20	19	*
June 20-23, 2013: <i>Recent Supreme Court rulings and cases before the court</i>	13	21	25	40	1
March 28-31, 2013: <i>The Supreme Court hearing cases about same-sex marriage</i>	22	29	22	26	1
May 10-13, 2012: <i>President Obama expressing his support for gay marriage</i>	37	23	18	21	1
February 23-26, 2012: <i>Recent debates over social issues such as gay marriage and contraception</i>	21	24	22	32	1
Feb 9-12, 2012: <i>A federal appeals court ruling that California's ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional</i>	16	23	24	37	1
Feb 24-27, 2011: <i>Recent developments in the debate over gay marriage</i>	19	26	20	34	1
May 29-June 1, 2009: <i>The California Supreme Court upholding a ban on gay marriage</i>	22	35	19	23	1
May 8-11, 2009: <i>Steps to legalize gay marriage in Maine and New Hampshire</i>	16	16	22	45	1
April 9-13, 2009: <i>The legalization of gay marriage in Iowa and Vermont</i>	13	21	23	42	1
Nov 7-10, 2008: <i>California voting to ban gay marriage</i>	18	26	24	32	*
June 20-23, 2008: <i>The issue of same sex marriage in California</i>	22	26	25	27	*
May 16-19, 2008: <i>The California Supreme Court's decision giving same-sex couples the right to marry</i>	19	27	25	28	1
May, 2004: <i>The issue of gay and lesbian marriage</i>	20	27	25	27	1
March, 2004	29	33	20	17	1
Early February, 2004: <i>The debate about allowing gays and lesbians to marry</i>	26	32	22	19	1
Mid-August, 2003	19	30	22	28	1
d. Political violence and a new government in Ukraine					
February 27-March 2, 2014	19	28	21	31	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
December, 2004: <i>Controversy over the results of the recent election in Ukraine</i>	10	22	29	38	1
November, 1990: <i>Continuing political unrest in the Ukraine and in other republics of the Soviet Union</i>	6	22	37	32	3
e. Political violence in Syria					
February 27-March 2, 2014	13	26	25	36	*
January 2-5, 2014	11	21	27	39	2
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
September 19-22, 2013: <i>Diplomatic efforts aimed at getting Syria to give up control of its chemical weapons</i>	33	32	17	17	1
September 12-15, 2013: <i>Possible U.S. airstrikes in Syria and diplomatic efforts to have Syria give up control of its chemical weapons</i>	45	31	12	11	*



**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
August 29-September 1, 2013: <i>Possible U.S. airstrikes in Syria in response to reports that the Syrian government used chemical weapons</i>	39	29	15	16	*
June 14-16, 2013: <i>Charges that Syria has used chemical weapons against anti-government groups</i>	15	30	20	33	2
June 6-9, 2013: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	13	23	22	42	*
May 9-12, 2013	17	24	25	33	1
April 25-28, 2013: <i>Charges that Syria has used chemical weapons against anti-government groups</i>	18	25	24	33	1
March 28-31, 2013: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	13	22	25	40	1
December 13-16, 2012	14	26	26	33	1
December 6-9, 2012	19	28	23	29	1
November 29-December 2, 2012	15	23	23	39	1
August 16-19, 2012	12	24	26	37	2
July 19-22, 2012	17	24	23	36	1
June 28-July 1, 2012	13	19	26	42	*
June 14-17, 2012	15	24	21	40	1
May 31-June 3, 2012	12	25	25	37	1
April 12-15, 2012: <i>International efforts to stop political violence in Syria</i>	14	23	25	37	1
April 5-8, 2012	15	21	27	37	1
March 15-18, 2012: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	16	26	27	30	1
March 8-11, 2012	17	23	23	37	1
February 23-26, 2012	18	24	21	35	1
February 9-12, 2012	17	23	23	36	*
January 12-15, 2012	12	17	26	45	1
August 4-7, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	10	19	26	44	1
June 2-5, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	25	25	32	*
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	14	27	30	28	1
April 28-May 1, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	29	25	27	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*

**PEW.2-PEW.10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****PEW.11-PEW.23 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**